

February 9, 2004

James A. Musso, Manager
Xcel Energy, Siting and Land Rights
1414 West Hamilton Avenue, P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

Dear Mr. Musso:

Xcel Energy has applied to the Environmental Quality Board for approval to reroute a short portion of a 115 kilovolt transmission line near the Willmar substation in Kandiyohi County. Xcel intends to remove fourteen structures on the north side of the substation and reroute the line along an existing transmission line parallel to 45th Avenue S.W. in Willmar on the south side. This reroute of the line will eliminate fourteen structures along the existing alignment on the north side of the substation. There is other work going on at the Willmar substation, including the rebuild of a 115 kV line to Kerkhoven and the relocation of a 230 kV line to Paynesville.

Xcel maintains that the relocation of the line constitutes a minor alteration of an existing line. A minor alteration is a change in an existing transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. In accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 4400.3820, this matter was noticed in the *EQB Monitor* on January 19, 2004. In addition, the EQB mailed notice to those persons on the agency's energy facilities notification list on January 23, 2004. Comments on the project were due to the EQB by Friday, February 6, 2004. The EQB received no comments on the project.

Based on staff review of the project, I have determined that the project does qualify as a minor alteration, and I hereby authorize Xcel Energy to proceed with the project as described in its submission of December 5, 2003.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair

cc: Pam Rasmussen